GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:629
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
WATER SCARCITY
RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate an effective strategy to deal with fast spreading water scarcity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek technology from developed countries to face the water scarcity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES

(DR.C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (d) of Starred Question No.629 to be answered in the Lok Sabha on 10.05.2000 regarding Water Scarcity.

India receives a rainfall of about 4000 billion cu.m. every year. Out of this about 1869 billion cu.m. appears as average annual runoff in the various rivers of the country. It is estimated that due to increasing population the average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 cu.m. at present to 1350 cu.m. by 2025 A.D. at the National level. According to international criteria any situation of yearly water availability or less than 1000 cu.m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition . Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country.

Due to topographical and geographical limitations only about 690 BCM of surface water can be utilised in addition to432 BCM of replenishable Ground water.The requirement of the country, upto 2025 A D can be met through optimal utilisation of these renewable water resources. A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM hasbeen created by construction of large dams and medium projects upto 1995. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCM are under planning.

Government of India is also promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-top Rainwater Harvesting underthe sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistanceis provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

A National Water Policy already exists which provide for planning and management of country's Water Resources in a sustainable basis.

International support and co-operation both in terms of funds and technological update is obtained from multilateral agencies like World Bank and bilateral donar agencies for the development of country's water resources.